

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/787,209

Examiner

Maria Veronica D. Ewald

Applicant(s)

BELLI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/6/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-28.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Atty. Roger Bonenfant on September 7, 2006. The application has been amended as follows. The first paragraph of the specification, immediately placed after the title, will be amended to state:

This is a division of Application No. 10/067,888, filed February 8, 2002, now ~~allowed~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,743,387, which is a continuation of international application number PCT/EP00/07218, filed July 27, 2000, and which claims priority of European Patent Application No. 99115701.7, filed August 9, 1999, and which claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/157,021, filed October 1, 1999, the contents all of which are are incorporated herein by reference.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20 – 28 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant has persuasively argued and indicated the differences between the prior art references cited by Examiner and Applicant's invention. The closest prior art references of Solomon (U.S. 3,922,128) and Greenstreet (U.S. 4,918,017) both fail to show a filter support plate comprising an internal surface and a plurality of elements

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which protrude therefrom and define a plurality of sectors, wherein said plurality of sectors define at least one pathway to direct the filtered composition to a central passage of the filter support plate. The reference of Solomon teaches the use of a filter support plate or breaker plate but is silent with respect to the configuration or geometry of the plate. The reference of Greenstreet teaches a sectored filter support plate with elongated slots; however, the plastic melt flows through the elongated slots and also through a central hole, which provides an additional area for the passage of the screened plastic melt; however, the support plate of Greenstreet ***does not have a plurality of elements which protrude from the internal surface*** and the slots of Greenstreet ***do not define at least one pathway to direct the filtered composition to a central passage of the filter support plate. The slots do not define the central hole of Greenstreet nor direct the filtered composition to the central hole.***

Thus, prior art fails to teach an apparatus for the production of a cable having at least one covering layer consisting of a composition comprising at least one polymeric material and a mineral filler in a quantity greater than 30% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, said apparatus comprising: at least one charging hopper for feeding the polymeric material and said mineral filler, optionally premixed together or with other components of said composition; at least one extruder comprising at least one filtration section, at least one extrusion screw, and at least one extrusion head inside of which is contained a die for the purpose of fitting said covering layer around at least one conducting element of said cable; at least one device for unwinding said conducting element; and at least one device for winding said cable, wherein the at least

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one filtration section of said extruder has a filter support plate comprising an internal surface and a plurality of elements, which protrude therefrom and define a plurality of sectors between and within which the filtered composition flows, and wherein said plurality of sectors define at least one pathway to direct the filtered composition to a central passage of the filter support plate.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

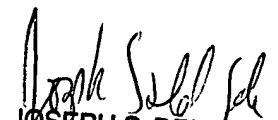
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maria Veronica D. Ewald whose telephone number is 571-272-8519. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571-272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MVE


JOSEPH S. DEL SOLE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
8/30/06